

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04073 201758Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001975 201808Z /42
R 201349Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4073

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR HABIB AND ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: FY-79 JORDAN AID PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 164825, B) AMMAN 4059

1. I NEED YOUR HELP IN PUTTING SOME SENSE INTO
WELL-INTENTIONED BUT NARROW OPTIC AID EFFORT IN
REFTEL A) TO CUT, BLUDGEON OR STIFLE A NUMBER OF
VERY SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS FOR JORDAN
FOR FY 1979.

2. NOWHERE IS THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL IMPACT OF
AID'S PROPOSED CHANGES FACTORED INTO THE PROCESS.
STABILITY, MODERATION AND CONFIDENCE IN JORDAN
COULD BE BADLY SHAKEN BY PROPOSED WHOLESALE CUT IN BUDGET
SUPPORT AFTER WE HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT
TO GET JORDANIANS TO AGREE TO GRADUAL PROGRAM OF
REDUCTIONS.

3. IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN THE SENSITIVE BORDER AREAS
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AFFECTING BOTH SIDES ARE LIKELY TO BE DELAYED OR
VASTLY UNDERFUNDED IF THE POLITICAL FACTORS INHERENT
IN THESE TWO EFFORTS--POTASH AND THE MAQARIN DAM--
ARE NOT TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DECISION
PROCESS. THEY ARE CLEARLY ABSENT NOW. CERTAINLY THE SECRETARY
CAN EXPECT TO BE TOLD OF THEIR IMPORTANCE AGAIN, AS KING DID
WITH PRESIDENT, WHEN HE RETURNS HERE SHORTLY.

4. FINALLY, VITAL WATER PROJECTS FOR CHRONICALLY WATER-SHORT AMMAN CITY WITH ITS 70 PERCENT PALESTINIAN POPULATION ALSO DEPEND SIGNIFICANTLY ON OUR PARTICIPATION AS A CENTRAL AND PRIMARY DONOR. WE REALIZE THAT WE ARE PUTTING A LOT ON AID'S PLATE IN ONE YEAR. HOWEVER CODELS JAVITS, STONE AND HAMILTON HAVE ALL BEEN ENCOURAGING IN OUR EFFORTS TO BE CREATIVE IN THIS AREA.

5. REFTTEL B) CONTAINS DETAILS WHICH YOUR STAFFS MAY WISH TO REVIEW. I AM DISTURBED BY LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD INHERENT IN REPORT SENT TO ME BY AID IN REFTTEL (B). I ASK YOUR HELP IN PUTTING MORE PERSPECTIVE BACK INTO THE PROCESS, KNOWING THE SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT ATTACH TO OUR CONTINUING PEACE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA AND THE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP OF THESE AID ISSUES TO THOSE EFFORTS.
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Message Attributes

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